



City Commission Agenda Item

Meeting Date: May 6, 2025

From: Randy Frazer, City Manager &
Tiffany Parsons, City Clerk

Item: 2025 Outstanding Student Award Recognitions

Motion: Recognize and honor Haven Gutierrez, Genesis Mendez, and Jessi Ritchhart as Arkansas City's Outstanding Student Award scholarship recipients for 2024-2025.

Background: The **Outstanding Student Award** program was started in 1984. The City Commission implemented the program to recognize students who are outstanding examples of academic and civic excellence in our community. Each year, staff ask teachers, staff, and administrators at the Arkansas City Middle School, Arkansas City High School, and Cowley College to nominate students they think are qualified for this honor.

The **Outstanding Student Award Committee**, appointed by the Mayor and City Commission, receives all nominations from the three schools. Short, informal interviews are conducted with each nominee, and the committee then chooses three finalists from each school to represent the nominees.

From the nine (9) finalists, a top student is chosen for each school. Of the three top students, one (1) is chosen as the Overall City of Arkansas City Outstanding Student for that year and awarded a **\$1,000** scholarship, the first runner-up receives a **\$500** scholarship, and the second runner-up receives a **\$250** scholarship from the City of Arkansas City.

This year's Overall Outstanding Student for Arkansas City is Cowley College student Jessi Ritchhart. The first runner-up is Arkansas City High School student Genesis Mendez. The second runner-up is Arkansas City Middle School student Haven Gutierrez. The top three students were announced at the April 21st Awards Banquet, where they were honored and received their certificates amongst family and friends.

Commission Options:

1. Introduce and award **Haven Gutierrez** as second runner-up and formally present the \$250 scholarship.
2. Introduce and award **Genesis Mendez** as first runner-up and formally present the \$500 scholarship.
3. Introduce and award **Jessi Ritchhart** as the 2024-2025 Overall Outstanding Student and formally present the \$1,000 scholarship.

Fiscal Impact: Amount: **\$1,700.00**

Fund: **01 - General** Department: **201 - Commission** Expense Code: **6217 - Contributions**

☒ Included in budget

☐ Grant

☐ Bonds

☐ Other Not Budgeted

Approved for Agenda by:

Randy Frazer, City Manager